Prodigies 3171

Chapter 3171 The Pursuit

The mighty beings of the Xun Department were all startled.

Boom!

In an instant, terrifying auras erupted from their bodies and divine treasures were summoned as they surged forward at full speed toward the distant fog. Their reaction was astonishingly swift. After all, they were Greater Boundless Realm existences who had roamed the Dark Zone for countless years. How could they be compared to ordinary cultivators?

Unfortunately, something moved even faster than they did. A streak of sword intent shot into the sky! Like a divine radiance tearing through the heavens, it appeared abruptly within the fog-shrouded world, carrying a majesty that seemed capable of suppressing all creation.

Boom!

The Xun Department experts felt though an invisible blade had cleaved straight through their hearts. Agony exploded within their minds, their consciousness trembled violently, and their vision went black.

How could wounds inflicted upon the state of mind be compared to ordinary dao injuries? They staggered in place, their qi thrown into chaos, and were unable to suppress cries of pain.

“This is bad!”

“Call for reinforcement—!”

Before the final word had fully left their lips, Xia Zhi moved. Her white bone spear flashed, thrusting five times in the span of a single breath.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Five figures fell at once. Their bodies crumpled like paper and disintegrated into drifting ash that scattered through the air. Their flesh was destroyed and their dao extinguished. The lone survivor was seized by Xia Zhi in one swift motion, bound and utterly immobilized.

Boom!

Only then did the vast sword intent that had surged skyward gradually fade away. Lin Xun stepped forward, glanced at the captive In Xia Zhi's grasp, and smiled faintly. "These fellows truly couldn't keep their composure."

"They likely never imagined we would strike back so suddenly," Xia Zhi replied calmly, handing the man over to him.

The unconscious man wore a python-patterned robe and was clearly the leader of the group. Lin Xun had no interest in waking him for questioning. He directly activated his secret art and began a soul search.

In moments, torrents of fragmented memories surged into Lin Xun's mind. Only then did he grasp the full picture. These mighty beings all belonged to the Xun Department, one of the Nine Departments of Alpha Origin. They had acted under the orders of Kuhe, the Heavenly Mandate Dao Lord of the Xun Department.

Within this Dark Zone, there were fifty-seven Heavenly Mandate Apostles from the Xun Department, led by an white-robed old elder called Tushan Leng. In addition, there were various other pieces of miscellaneous information.

The most valuable discovery, without question, was that, through the soul search, Lin Xun had obtained a geomantic map of the Dark Zone! With this map in hand, he would no longer wander blindly through this fog-shrouded world.

At the same time, he finally grasped the true purpose behind the earlier ambush. Those six Heavenly Mandate Apostles had intended to lure him and Xia Zhi toward a forbidden place known as the Dark Spring.

Near that ominous land, a Mist Spirit King stood guard. Their scheme was simple: to kill with a borrowed blade.

Having learned all this, Lin Xun was not in the least surprised.

From the moment he had entered the Mortal Transformation Zone, Heavenly Mandate Apostles of the Kun Department had already sought his life. Now, encountering an ambush from the Xun Department within the Dark Zone was hardly surprising.

After a brief moment of contemplation, he reached a decision and departed into the distance with Xia Zhi.

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Sky Fiend Mountain.

“If we calculate the timing...if they succeeded, Lin Xun and that woman should have been lured near the Dark Spring by now,” Youjiang said quietly, his fiery robe faintly aglow beneath the mist.

Dozens of mighty experts from the Xun Department stood behind him, their auras tightly restrained. Within the fog-shrouded Sky Fiend Mountain, they were almost impossible to detect.

“Has any message returned?” Tushan Leng asked, his white brows knitting faintly.

“Not yet.” Youjiang shook his head.

“Whether the operation succeeded or failed, they would have reported back by now.” Tushan Leng’s expression darkened. “And yet we’ve heard nothing...”

His gaze sharpened. “I’m afraid something has gone wrong.”

Youjiang's heart skipped. "You think they've encountered trouble?"

"Trouble would be the lesser concern," Tushan Leng replied gravely. "What worries me is that Lin Xun may already be on his way here."

After a brief silence, he made his decision. "We cannot wait any longer. We depart for the Dark Spring at once!"

Without another word, he turned and moved, vanishing into the fog. Youjiang hesitated for a moment. Though he felt Tushan Leng was perhaps overly cautious, he gave the order and led the others in pursuit.

"Leave traces as we go. I want Lin Xun to know we are heading toward the Dark Spring." Tushan Leng's voice sounded.

"Understood." Youjiang nodded. Moments later, they were swallowed by the thick gray haze.

Half an hour later, Lin Xun and Xia Zhi arrived at Sky Fiend Mountain.

"They're cautious," Lin Xun remarked calmly. He had already surveyed the surroundings and confirmed that the enemy had withdrawn before their arrival.

"Do we pursue?" Xia Zhi asked.

"We pursue," Lin Xun replied without hesitation.

Although the Dark Zone was shrouded in dense fog, he now held a map of this place. He was no longer navigating blindly as he had at the beginning.

"This way."

It wasn't long before Lin Xun detected the traces Tushan Leng and the others had left behind. They were far too obvious, and it was clearly deliberate.

As Lin Xun followed the trail, he soon understood that Tushan Leng and the others were heading toward the Dark Spring. That alone was enough to reveal several things.

First, the enemy was exceedingly cautious. They dared not confront him head-on. This likely meant they had already learned something of his true strength. Second, the Dark Spring was known as an ominous and forbidden land within this world. The enemy intended to use that cursed place as a weapon against him.

However, the clearer their intentions became, the more intrigued Lin Xun felt. From the memories he had extracted during the soul search, he knew that the Dark Spring was extraordinarily strange. Throughout countless years, not even Tushan Leng and the other Heavenly Mandate Apostles of the Xun Department had dared to investigate it rashly.

So what exactly was hidden within that forbidden place? Surely it was not merely a Mist Spirit King.

"Once we've dealt with them...we'll make a trip to the Dark Spring ourselves..." Lin Xun murmured inwardly.

Four hours later, Lin Xun slowed his pace. A thousand miles ahead lay the forbidden region where the Dark Spring was said to reside. From this point onward, the traces left by the enemy abruptly vanished. It was almost certain that in this fog-shrouded world, the road ahead would be fraught with ambushes and deadly assaults.

To Lin Xun's surprise, as he and Xia Zhi drew closer to the Dark Spring, no danger arose along the way.

"Why is there no trace of the enemy?" Xia Zhi finally asked aloud.

By now, Lin Xun had fully grasped the situation. "Their aim is to force me into a confrontation with the Mist Spirit King. Before that happens, they won't show themselves."

Just as he finished, a cold laugh suddenly rang out. “Lin Xun...you should never have come!”

The voice reverberated through the fog. The moment the cold laughter faded, hundreds of dangerous auras erupted within the surrounding fog, converging at once upon Lin Xun and Xia Zhi.

Lin Xun’s eyes narrowed. He clenched his fist and struck the air. Boom!

The surrounding mist shattered and dispersed in an instant, as though swept clean by a raging storm. Then, within Lin Xun and Xia Zhi’s field of vision, countless mist spirits surged forth from every direction, dense and overwhelming, like a black tide crashing in.

It was not the Mist Spirit King, but the formation before them was even more terrifying. Every single mist spirit radiated an aura no weaker than that of a Greater Boundless Realm cultivator!

Yet, Lin Xun and Xia Zhi grew calmer at the sight. They exchanged a glance. Then they moved.

Boom!

Lin Xun’s towering figure suddenly soared into the sky. In that moment, he resembled a vast abyss swallowing the firmament. Boundless divine radiance erupted from him, tearing apart the mist in all directions, illuminating heaven and earth.

He struck with a single punch. The heavens wailed. The void caved inward, as though unable to endure the might contained within that blow.

The charging mist spirits had barely drawn near when they were swept up in the Immeasurable force of his fist. It crushed through them like dead leaves before a storm, leaving them no strength even to struggle.

At the same time, Xia Zhi moved. Her graceful figure strode through the air, her white bone spear sweeping in an arc. In an instant, a torrent of temporal power poured forth, like a celestial river cascading from beyond the heavens.

Wherever it passed, time distorted and space twisted. The mist spirits caught within it seemed dragged into a vortex of fractured space-time, utterly imprisoned. Then, as Lin Xun and Xia Zhi joined forces, the mist spirits rushing toward them became like moths plunging to flame. Wave after wave was suppressed and seized.

Within moments, every single mist spirit had been wiped out.

“This...”

In the distance, atop a low hill, Tushan Leng and the Heavenly Mandate Apostles of the Xun Department stood rooted in place. Having witnessed everything, color drained from their faces and a chill crept into their limbs.

Even Tushan Leng’s aged face turned grave. Too strong! Far stronger than they had anticipated.

Had they not seen it with their own eyes, they would never have believed that this man and woman, who had entered the Mortal Transformation Zone less than a year ago, could wield such heaven-defying power.

From afar, Lin Xun’s voice rang out, “Many thanks! It would be impolite of me to refuse such generous gifts.”

His gaze had already shifted toward Tushan Leng and the others. With the fog temporarily dispersed, Tushan Leng and his group could no longer conceal themselves.

“Damn it!”

Youjiang’s face turned ashen. Those hundreds of mist spirits had been subdued and released by them to besiege Lin Xun and Xia Zhi. Who could have imagined that they would be rounded up like mere livestock, captured and suppressed one by one?

“Retreat!”

Tushan Leng's pupils contracted sharply as he saw Lin Xun and Xia Zhi turning toward them.

He dared not hesitate. Unfortunately, at that very moment...Boom!

A boundless, violent, ice-cold aura suddenly erupted from the distant depths of the Dark Zone. It spread outward like the awakening of an ancient sovereign who had slumbered for countless ages. The pressure of it alone caused Tushan Leng and the others to stiffen where they stood. Even Lin Xun and Xia Zhi halted mid-charge, their hearts tightening.

In the far distance, as the remaining mist collapsed and dispersed, a colossal figure tens of thousands of feet tall was revealed. Primal chaos surged around its body like black waterfall, dark and violent, and its might crushed the surrounding void. From afar, it resembled a primordial god emerging from chaos itself.

Chapter 3172 The Swordsman of Long Ago, A Spirit Bond Formed

Mist Spirit King!

Tushan Leng and the others sucked in a sharp breath. Long ago, they had witnessed the terror of this ferocious being. They knew well that unless an Immeasurable Dao Lord descended, no one could hope to suppress it.

Almost instinctively, they turned and fled, not daring to linger for even a heartbeat. However, as he retreated, Tushan Leng suddenly realized that Lin Xun and the woman had not moved. What followed left him utterly stunned.

Lin Xun rose into the air and charged straight toward the Mist Spirit King.

"He..."

Tushan Leng and the others froze mid-flight, shock written across their faces.

"Has he lost his mind?" someone blurted out.

Everyone's expressions changed. Moments earlier, they had tried to lure Lin Xun here, intending to use the Mist Spirit King as a borrowed blade. However, they had never imagined that even hundreds of mist spirits would fail to trap him. Their carefully laid scheme had collapsed on the spot, declared a complete failure.

They had assumed that under such circumstances, their target would choose to retreat. Who could have expected that he would instead take the initiative and charge straight at the Mist Spirit King?

It was so far beyond their expectations that it left them unsettled.

"I've seen people courting death," Youjiang sneered coldly, "but never like this. He's practically doing us a favor."

At that point, they were no longer in any hurry to flee.

Boom!

In the distance, Lin Xun was already engaged in a fierce battle with the Mist Spirit King. The heavens and the earth roared as dao lights tore across the nine heavens. It was a clash worthy of legend.

Radiant dao light wreathed Lin Xun, ethereal and transcendent. With every gesture, every movement, and every strike, he seemed like a supreme sovereign commanding the myriad daos of all heavens. His power surged vast and boundless, shaking the firmament.

Of course, the Mist Spirit King was by no means to be underestimated. Its ten-thousand-foot tall figure stood like a primordial mountain. Torrents of primal chaos flowed across it, evolving into unfathomable law power that churned and destabilized the surrounding world.

"Good!"

In the midst of battle, Lin Xun's eyes blazed. There was not a trace of fear within them, only the exhilaration of finally meeting a worthy opponent. From that moment on, he held nothing back, clashing with the Mist Spirit King in full force.

Since entering the Mortal Transformation Zone, he had undergone transformation after transformation. He had broken through repeatedly in cultivation. He had obtained primal chaos origin power twice. He had battled the dao manifestation of his own master, the Lord of Fangchun Mountain, tempering his mind until it achieved the state of roaming ten thousand fathoms and spanning countless ages.

He had crossed blades with supreme geniuses in the Great Dao Contest, discerning and comprehending the ultimate dao path each of them embodied. Each transformation had elevated his combat strength again and again.

Now, even he himself was no longer certain just how far his power had reached. After all, since entering the Dark Zone, he had not encountered a single opponent worthy of a true contest.

However, with the appearance of the Mist Spirit King, a formidable opponent had finally appeared! Especially in direct confrontation, Lin Xun sensed something extraordinary. Within the Mist Spirit King flowed a mysterious origin power. Furthermore, it was precisely this force that made its strength fundamentally different and unimaginably formidable.

Lin Xun even suspected that even an Immeasurable Dao Lord might be slightly inferior to this Mist Spirit King. The reason was simple. At the level of an Immeasurable Dao Lord, one wielded the might of 'all daos converge into one, and from one arise all daos.'

Just as with the five dao manifestations jointly ranked first within the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws of the Mortal Transformation Zone, they too had stood at this level. Of note, back in the Mortal Transformation Zone, Lin Xun had already defeated them one by one!

In comparison, the power the Mist Spirit King now unleashed was clearly on an entirely higher tier. This power did not stem from the Mist Spirit King's own cultivation alone, but from the origin power flowing within it. In other words, the Mist Spirit King was drawing upon a form of origin power!

However, the more this became apparent, the more satisfied Lin Xun felt. What ordinary opponent could possibly possess such strength?

Rumble—

The battle grew ever more terrifying. The heavens and earth descended into chaos, as though the entire world were being overturned. Seeing that Lin Xun could contend with the Mist Spirit King to such an extent, Tushan Leng and the others felt a chill seep into their bones, as if they had fallen into an icy abyss.

Had they known Lin Xun was this powerful, would they ever have dared to provoke him so recklessly? In fact, many of them felt a grim sense of relief. Fortunately, they had not confronted Lin Xun head-on earlier. Otherwise, the consequences would have been catastrophic.

“Retreat! We must leave at once. Once Lin Xun regains the upper hand, we won’t be able to escape even if we try.” Tushan Leng turned and fled without hesitation, not daring to watch another moment of the battle.

The others followed immediately, scattering into the mist like startled birds. Xia Zhi saw everything, but she did not pursue them. Compared to those enemies, Lin Xun’s safety mattered far more to her. Besides, in this Dark Zone, there would be no shortage of chances to settle accounts in the future.

Boom!

A full quarter of an hour later, the towering Mist Spirit King could no longer hold on. With a thunderous collapse, its colossal body disintegrated, torrents of primal chaos surging skyward like shattered waterfalls.

“Stop! Stop! I surrender!”

A child’s clear, innocent voice suddenly rang out from the rolling fog. Lin Xun halted mid-stride and looked up. Where the Mist Spirit King had fallen, a fist-sized droplet of water hovered in midair, crystal clear, luminous, and wreathed in strands of obscure aura.

The child’s voice came from within it. Lin Xun stepped forward and appeared before the droplet in an instant. His eyes gleamed with curiosity. “What are you?”

He had not expected the terrifying Mist Spirit King to be nothing more than a transformation of a single water droplet. What was its origin?

“I am not a thing,” the child’s voice replied softly. “I am a spirit.”

“I was nurtured by the primal chaos origin of this realm. I wield the complete Chaos Principle, Darkness.”

“Something like a law spirit?” Lin Xun asked, slightly taken aback.

He knew that laws could give birth to innate spiritual entities, but he had never imagined that even the primal chaos origin of the All-Wonder Dominion could give rise to a spirit embodying Chaos Principle!

“You may understand it that way,” the voice replied, “but I am the primordial spirit of a principle itself. I can evolve into an eternal realm, or transform into the primal chaos origin of a great world. From me, the myriad dao powers of that world may unfold and all forces of law and order may arise because of me. Most importantly, I possess intelligence.”

The droplet spun lightly as it hovered in midair, its clear voice carrying a distinctive rhythm. Lin Xun was inwardly startled. If what it claimed was true, then the power contained within this tiny droplet was extraordinary, far beyond anything a law spirit could compare to.

“Then tell me,” Lin Xun asked, unable to restrain his curiosity. “Can you create a dao that has never existed in this world?”

The droplet replied without hesitation, “No, I am a spirit born of primal chaos origin. The creation of dao belongs to the primal chaos origin itself.”

Lin Xun understood at once. This droplet and the Chaos Dao Fruit were both nurtured from the primal chaos origin of the All-Wonder Dominion. The difference was that the Chaos Dao Fruit embodied a complete Chaos Principle, while this droplet was the spirit-form of a Chaos Principle!

It was akin to the difference between law power and law spirit.

“Do you have a name?” Xia Zhi approached from afar, her clear eyes fixed on the water droplet with undisguised curiosity. Even she had never encountered such a mysterious spirit.

“Of course,” the droplet replied. “Long ago...a swordsman once came to this world.”

As it spoke, the droplet spun lightly. A ripple of radiant light blossomed outward, unfolding into a series of shifting scenes suspended in the air.

Within those visions, a man crouched before a quiet spring, smiling faintly. His gaze was fixed on a motionless droplet within the water, clear as crystal, like a tiny sphere of glass. He looked at it as though he had discovered the most fascinating secret in all the world, delight written plainly across his face.

The man wore a simple brown cloth robe. His long hair was loosely gathered into a bun, secured with a three-inch wooden sword. His features were refined and gentle, and his eyes clear and luminous. An air of carefree elegance and unrestrained freedom surrounded him.

He remained crouched there casually, blinking as he gazed at the droplet with a faint smile. After a while, he let out a soft chuckle, “Little fellow, though your spirituality has yet to truly awaken, you must already be able to sense me. If I’m right...come here”

He extended his right hand. The tiny droplet trembled faintly, then, with a light leap, it hopped straight into his palm.

The man couldn’t help but laugh softly. “How interesting. What a pity...If I were to take you away now, I’d disrupt your chance to undergo transformation and awaken.”

He paused, smiling. “How about this...I’ll give you a name. When you awaken your spirituality in the future, if we are destined to meet again, just speak that name and I’ll know it’s you.”

The tiny water droplet rolled about in this palm as though delighted.

“How about...I call you ‘Roll’?” the man teased.

The tiny droplet shuddered and bounced up and down in his palm as though protesting.

The sight made the man burst into laughter. “So spirited already? You are born with such spirituality and born of this Dark Zone. When you awaken one day, you will surely dazzle the world. Since fate allowed me to encounter you today. Very well, I shall call you Lingyuan...born with spirit and with fate formed by heaven. I only hope that in the future our fates will cross again.”

Buzz—

The tiny water droplet rolled happily in the man’s palm. Clearly, it approved of the name.

The man fell silent for a moment. Then he reached up and drew the wooden sword that had been slanted through his hair bun. With a casual flick of his finger, the blade slipped from his grasp and shot into the depths of the spring below.

He pointed toward the submerged wooden sword. “If one day someone is able to draw this sword,” he said lightly, “go with them. Let them take you away from this All-Wonder Dominion.”

With that, he lifted the tiny droplet and gently placed it back into the spring. Then he rose to his feet and waved with a smile. “As for me...I’m off to rebuild my great dao. Farewell, little friend.”

Laughing softly, he strode away. His tall figure drifted between heaven and earth, growing more indistinct with every step until he disappeared entirely from sight. With him, the visions dissolved, vanishing without a trace.

Lin Xun stood in silence, his heart surging like a restless tide. He knew exactly who that man was. However, he had never imagined that long ago, in this very place, that legendary swordsman had once formed a bond with this water droplet and even bestowed upon it a name.

“Temper the heart as smooth as jade...sharpen your heart like a blade,” Lin Xun murmured inwardly. “The bearing of that swordsman truly stands unrivalled beneath the heavens...”

Back then, in the void above the firmament of the Mortal Transformation Zone, he had caught a glimpse of that swordsman. His sleeves billowed freely. His body mirrored the turning cycle of reincarnation. Beneath his feet, an immeasurable sea of swords surged forth, vast and endless like a rising tide.

That swordsman was an unparalleled legend, a supreme figure who could stand shoulder to shoulder with Alpha Origin and Chen Xi!

“Hey, will you take me with you?” The clear, childlike voice rang out from within the water droplet, tinged with longing.

“If you do,” it continued softly, “I will tell you the greatest secret of the Dark Spring.”

Lin Xun blinked in surprise. “Why are you so eager to leave?”

The droplet’s voice softened. “I wish to find that swordsman. He was the one who gave me my name. It was his wooden sword that sealed the origin power of the Dark Spring, allowing my spirituality to awaken. To me, it was the grace of awakening, and I must one day repay it.”

Chapter 3173 Three-Inch Wooden Sword

To repay kindness!

Lin Xun couldn't help but view Lingyuan in a new way. “That swordsman has already started over by entering reincarnation. Even if you have the chance to leave the All-Wonder Dominion, how will you find him?”

Lingyuan's voice was clear and crisp, “As long as I go looking, I will definitely be able to find him.”

Lin Xun was stunned. In the end, he said, “Alright then, take me to the Dark Spring.”

He was also curious as to what kind of mystery was hidden behind the three-inch wooden sword that the swordsman had suppressed in the Dark Spring back then.

“Come on.” A delighted Lingyuan took Lin Xun and Xia Zhi in a direction.

Following Lingyuan, the omnipresent fog dispersed along their way, which amazed Lin Xun.

This fog could suppress cultivators' spirit sense, but as expected of a law ancestor born in the primal chaos origin of this realm, Lingyuan wielded the power that was clearly of the same origin as the fog.

Soon, a small puddle of water came into view among the world of chaos qi. Under the puddle was a spring. From this spring poured out strings of chaos water droplets. All condensed from the power of primal chaos origin, they contained an unimaginable, divine origin power.

"If you can retrieve the wooden sword from there, I will be able to leave," Lingyuan said expectantly.

Lin Xun walked up to the spring and gazed deeply into it. Through the thick and pure energy of primal chaos origin, he could vaguely see the shadow of an object in the depths. Upon closer inspection, it was a thin, three-inch long wooden sword!

The sword was small, but the aura it emitted dominated the primal chaos origin power in this spring, which was incredible.

"Even if no one fishes out this sword, you still could have left on your own long ago," Xia Zhi couldn't help but comment.

Lingyuan said, "No, Senior Swordsman said I must only leave with the one who retrieves this sword from the spring."

Xia Zhi revealed a rare smile as she said, "But, what if we take this sword without taking you with us?"

Lingyuan was instantly anxious. "Then I...I will just follow you!"

An amused Xia Zhi asked Lin Xun, "Should we take him with us?"

Lin Xun could tell that Xia Zhi had taken a fancy to Lingyuan. He smiled. "Only if you want."

Lingyuan said pitifully, “Big Sister, please take me with you.”

Xia Zhi opened her palm. “Then hop on here.”

Without hesitation, Lingyuan leapt onto her palm.

In that instant, Xia Zhi smiled so happily that her eyes turned into two sparkling crescent moons. “What an...interesting little fellow.”

She carefully held the water droplet that was Lingyuan, blinking as she sized it up.

Lin Xun, on the other hand, took a deep breath and extended his hand, from which a devouring force gushed out.

Whoosh!

The chaos water in the puddle violently tumbled as they got sucked upward and swallowed. From the spring below, more chaos water continuously streamed into Lin Xun's palm. This was the power of primal chaos origin. It was hundreds of times more valuable than the Chaos Dao Fruit, so to Lin Xun, this was an unexpected harvest.

Just as quickly, however, he frowned and revealed an odd look. The three-inch wooden sword in the depths merely trembled slightly, and then it broke free from his devouring power like a nimble fish! No matter how many times Lin Xun tried again, the result remained the same.

“Lingyuan, what exactly is this wooden sword suppressing?” asked Lin Xun.

Lingyuan crisply replied, “Deep within this dark spring is the Primal Chaos Core of this realm. It's the nest I was born in, but a long time ago, a guy called Alpha Origin did something and refined the Primal Chaos Core into his own, with the purpose of making me his servant when I gain sentience.”

After a pause, Lingyuan continued, “But that swordsman intervened and suppressed the Primal Chaos Core with his wooden sword, allowing me to avoid this calamity when I awakened.”

Lin Xun was inwardly shaken. So the Alpha Origin Master had come to this place and refined all the Primal Chaos Cores that had birthed Lingyuan!

What was a Primal Chaos Core? It was the core of the primal chaos origin, functioning like a heart to a human.

For Lingyuan, the Primal Chaos Core was its nest!

Back then, Alpha Origin subdued the Primal Chaos Core in order to make Lingyuan submit to him once it came into being, but the interference of that swordsman apparently had turned it around.

Lin Xun mused, “If I take away the wooden sword, what will happen to this Primal Chaos Core?”

“I don't know.” There was no delay and no thought behind Lingyuan’s answer.

The corners of Lin Xun's lips jerked a little. “Then I'll just give it a try.”

He told Xia Zhi and Lingyuan to retreat far away and stood alone in front of the Dark Spring pondering for a while. Then, suddenly, he turned into a streak of light and dove into the spring.

Boom!

In the blink of an eye, it felt as though he was diving into a black hole of nothing but endless energy of primal chaos origin. Very quickly, he saw the wooden sword. The three-inch sword appeared old and unadorned, but in Lin Xun's eyes, it was filled inside out with an unparalleled power, a horrifying might that could crush the ages and cut down gods!

His heart quivered. The three-inch wooden sword could not be more ordinary, but such a terrifying aura about it made the weapon into something else entirely.

This wooden sword was left behind right before that swordsman went into reincarnation, so its energy represents his peak dao, and it is still this powerful after these countless eons. I should expect nothing less of a legendary figure...

As Lin Xun lamented this, he suddenly had this strong desire. Back in the Mortal Transformation Zone, he had not had the chance to duel Chen Xi's, Alpha Origin's, and that swordsman's dao manifestations, but now...he could give it a try! While pondering, he quietly operated his cultivation base and used his power to blanket the wooden sword.

Clank!

In that instant, there seemed to ring a sword chant. From the three-inch wooden sword, a sword intent of peerless sharpness erupted and confronted Lin Xun's power.

Boom!

The chaos qi in the vicinity was violently disrupted. The incredible sword intent kept spreading from the three-inch wooden sword like a landslide. Meanwhile, Lin Xun was using his full might, manifesting his dao as a cauldron in an attempt to suppress it. The two parties went on to have an intense clash.

Time trickled by.

The sword intent of the three-inch wooden sword became more and more powerful, reflecting boundless arcane killing aura. However, Lin Xun's methods also grew constantly stronger to match it, firmly holding it in check.

Diamond against diamond!

Lin Xun felt a huge pressure at this moment. The power of the three-inch wooden sword surpassed that of an Immeasurable Dao Lord. Despite being a mere force, it represented the peak of that swordsman! However, the more this was the case, the more potential it brought out of Lin Xun. His fighting spirit was surging, his whole energy on fire.

Since entering the Mortal Transformation Zone until now, his cultivation had progressed rapidly, but he had always been short on a worthy opponent. As such, what he lacked the most right now was precisely this kind of training!

He clearly perceived that his dao was being honed, and the cultivation potential that he had been accumulating was being brought into practice in this fight.

Four hours later...a sense of fatigue permeated Lin Xun, and only then did he realize that his dao had almost been exhausted in this heated confrontation. He immediately stopped and gazed fondly at the buzzing wooden sword, saying reluctantly, “I'll come back to fight you later.”

With that, he teleported away from the Dark Spring.

“How did it go?” immediately asked Xia Zhi, who had been waiting.

“That sword shouldn't be too much of a problem, but it will take some time,” replied Lin Xun with a smile.

Although he hadn’t managed to subdue the three-inch wooden sword and retrieve it, he had gotten a great harvest out of it, tapping into and refining his full dao potential. The experience was the same as having an epiphany in the middle of a meditation session.

Moreover, the primal chaos origin power gushing out from the Dark Spring was also considered a fortune. It was greatly productive for one's cultivation progress to absorb it. All in all, Lin Xun found this place to be an excellent cultivation paradise.

From this day on, he and Xia Zhi simply stayed next to the Dark Spring and used the primal chaos origin power here to cultivate. Both of them proceeded to reap huge benefits.

Every few days, Lin Xun would swoop into the depths of the Dark Spring to have an intense duel with the three-inch wooden sword until he was exhausted. Then, he would go back, seizing every second to recover.

While in meditation, he would examine the changes in his own potential and strength, and then review the insights that had dawned upon him during the fight with the three-inch wooden sword. This further honed his dao and produced noticeable improvements!

Three months later, in a temple atop a big mountain in the Dark Zone.

“If Lin Xun isn't dead, then he could have attracted a Chaos Dao Fruit with the amount of mist spirits he has and left the Dark Zone, but he hasn't.”

The red-robed You Jiang paced back and forth with a gloomy expression. During this period of time, the Heavenly Mandate Apostles of their Xun Department had been on pins and needles. Lin Xun's power made all of them feel threatened, and they could not have peace of mind as long as he was still here.

“In these three months, he hasn't once found us to retaliate, there's absolutely no movement at all. If only someone could go near the Dark Spring and poke around...” whispered the white-robed Tushan Leng.

The other people in the hall looked at each other and kept silent. Who would be so impatient to die that they would volunteer to go to the Dark Spring at this kind of time? Seeing that no one opened their mouths, Tushan Leng felt indescribably stifled.

So what if they were Greater Boundless Eternals? When under a life-threatening situation, they would be scared and act cowardly all the same!

Half a day later, Tushan Leng said hoarsely, “I have a piece of bad news for you all. I have contacted the leader, and he has given a non-negotiable order that we do not leave the Dark Zone.”

All of a sudden, the expression of everyone in the hall changed. While they couldn't beat Lin Xun, they wouldn't be too terrified so long as they still had a chance to escape from the Dark Zone. However, if they remained here, he would sooner or later get to them!

It could be said that this order from the Xun Department’s Heavenly Mandate Dao Lord Kuhe had directly cut off their retreat route!

Chapter 3174 Why I Cultivate

“How can he do that?!” someone exclaimed indignantly.

All of them were Greater Boundless Eternals who had been on the path of cultivation for no one knew how long, so who couldn't tell that Kuhe was demanding them to risk their lives with Lin Xun?

“We submitted ourselves to the Alpha Origin Master and have achieved what we have today after countless years of fighting for him. If this was an order from the supreme master himself, I wouldn't have batted an eye to throw my life away, but as far as I know, there are no instructions regarding the matter of Lin Xun directly from the Master or Young Miss,” another said in a low voice.

What these words implied was clear: the operation against Lin Xun was entirely Kuhe’s own idea. The eyes of the people in the hall flickered as they harbored different thoughts.

After a long silence, Tushan Leng sighed, “So be it, if any of you want to leave, you can leave now. I won't force you to stay, nor will I hold a grudge against you over it.”

The others all looked at each other in disbelief.

“Brother Tushan, what are you going to do?” You Jiang asked.

“I’m staying.” Tushan Leng's expression was now utterly calm. “This old life of mine was rescued by the department leader. It's time I give it back to him.”

The atmosphere became suffocating all of a sudden.

Boom!

The whole place quaked. Everyone in the grand hall got up in alarm. Outside, it was as if the region had been impacted by some kind of horrifying force. The scenery shook violently and showed no signs of stopping.

“What is happening?” Someone was startled.

They had been walking the Dark Zone for many years, but they had never seen the heavens and earth here creating such a commotion, as if someone was trying to flip the world upside down.

“It must have something to do with Lin Xun!” Tushan Leng looked grave. “Those who want to leave, leave now. This Dark Zone is no longer a safe place for the likes of us.”

Indescribably depressing emotions welled up in his heart. Who could have thought of this before, that Lin Xun alone would be able to have them living in fear and on tenterhooks?

On this same day, a group of Heavenly Mandate Apostles affiliated with the Xun Department left the Dark Zone. It was not hard as they had each collected enough mist spirits during their long stationing here.

Despite knowing that leaving would invite great trouble, none of them cared. After all, behind the nine sky zones of the Realm of All Spirits, there was still a Dao Slaying Path. These Heavenly Mandate Apostles didn't think that they would be able to break through these heavy passes and enter the Realm of All Mysteries anytime soon.

So long as they didn't appear in the Realm of All Mysteries, there was nothing Heavenly Mandate Dao Lord Kuhe could do to them no matter how angry he was. In the end, only nineteen of the Xun Department’s Heavenly Mandate Apostles remained in the Dark Zone, including Tushan Leng.

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Just as Tushan Leng had guessed, the shocking quake was Lin Xun's handiwork. At this moment, deep within the Dark Spring, a three-inch wooden sword tamely floated before him.

“Thank you, Senior.” Lin Xun cupped his fist as he thanked the swordsman. During these three months, he had confronted the three-inch wooden sword twelve times, and this was also the amount of time that his dao had undergone extreme tempering.

Not only had his potential been completely tapped into and consolidated, but his cultivation had also been refined and improved a great deal! Lin Xun had the feeling that his cultivation base was approaching perfection, as in, it was no different from that of an Immeasurable Dao Lord's. Of course, his actual combat power had long surpassed Immeasurable Dao Lords now!

Whoosh~

The three-inch wooden sword fell into Lin Xun's hand. He then turned his gaze to the deeper area, which was where the Primal Chaos Core of the Dark Zone was located. That place was swirling with an obscure energy of primal chaos origin.

In addition to that, there was a mysterious restrictive power covering the Primal Chaos Core. It was all too familiar to Lin Xun, clearly coming from the same source as the Alpha Origin Principle that covered the Fortune Dominion!

"The three-inch wooden sword was left here by Senior Swordsman before he was reincarnated, while according to Lingyuan, the Alpha Origin Principle appeared much earlier. If so, what kind of cultivation level was the Alpha Origin Master at the time?"

As Lin Xun pondered this, he suddenly smiled. Let's try and find out!

He jabbed out with a finger.

Swish!

A qi sword shot out, containing nothing but the profound truths of Nirvana within. It seemed light and casually executed, but in reality, it was the strongest attack at Lin Xun's current dao.

Kaboom!

The Primal Chaos Core heaved. Suddenly, the Alpha Origin Principle shrouding it swept up, constructing a strange talisman filled with the aura of calamity. When Lin Xun's qi sword hit the talisman, it was as if

two supreme daos were clashing! The entire Dark Zone shook violently, and appalling cracks appeared in the endless void.

However, such a destructive scene disappeared after a blink of an eye. The Alpha Origin Principle around the Primal Chaos Core in the depths of the Dark Spring had collapsed and completely dissipated. Only the qi sword released by Lin Xun bobbed up and down in the air, flowing with a divine light.

“Compared to the three-inch wooden sword, this Alpha Origin Principle was slightly weaker, so it should not be the power of the Alpha Origin Master at his peak but when he first entered the Dark Zone.”

Lin Xun reflected on the experience for a moment and then turned to leave. He wasn't interested in taking the Primal Chaos Core of the Dark Zone for himself. He also didn't need the Primal Chaos Core to enhance his dao.

Having reached this level in cultivation, his mindset and way of viewing fortunes had also changed. The past him would not hesitate to refine the Primal Chaos Core into his own. Now, however, he had realized that the Primal Chaos Core maintained the law power of the entire Dark Zone like a mother womb. If he took it away, this world would suffer irreparable damage.

In that scenario, cultivators who entered the Dark Zone in the future probably would no longer be able to leave through its heavenly gate, and thus would never have the chance to enter the next sky zone. This was undoubtedly synonymous to cutting off the cultivation path of many.

Back then, Alpha Origin hadn't done so, and that swordsman had not done so either even though they had the chance. This was probably out of the same consideration.

“Success?” A meditating Xia Zhi immediately opened her eyes and looked at Lin Xun the moment he flew out from the Dark Spring.

Lin Xun nodded with a smile.

Xia Zhi instantly laughed and flipped her palm, on which a crystal clear water bead appeared. Her melodious voice resounded with a hint of doting, “Little Lingyuan, you can go with us now.”

“Awesome!” Lingyuan cheered, so excited that it levitated and flashed back and forth.

“Here, your wooden sword.” Lin Xun handed over the three-inch wooden sword, “Carry it on you moving forward. If you ever come across its master, whether you still recognize him or not, this sword will resonate with him.”

Rustle~

The droplet suddenly stirred, dispensing ripples that enveloped the three-inch wooden sword and put it away.

Just then, Lingyuan said gratefully, “Many thanks, Senior!”

Lin Xun was dumbfounded.

Xia Zhi caressed the droplet and remarked, “You call me big sister but call him senior?”

Lingyuan said, “Oh, I know, it should be brother-in-law, right?”

Lin Xun was first stunned, and then broke into a delighted chortle. Xia Zhi couldn't help but smile brightly as well. She was never a shy girl and would never fail to show the joy she felt in front of Lin Xun.

“Let's go and settle those enemies, and then we will leave the Dark Zone,” Lin Xun said.

Having already let those enemies prolong their lives for three months, it was time he put an end to this.

.....

In that palace atop the mountain, a white-robed Tushan Leng sat, his murky eyes scanning a geomancy map drawn on brown beast leather, his expression calm and focused. On both sides of the hall sat the other eighteen Heavenly Mandate Apostles. The atmosphere was unusually quiet.

That was the scene that greeted Lin Xun when he arrived. His arrival also broke the quiet atmosphere in the hall. The other eighteen Heavenly Mandate Apostles rose to their feet in unison with their guard on, their expressions either of doubt, gravity, or ruthlessness.

In the central main seat, Tushan Leng put away the geomancy map. His gaze landed on Lin Xun and Xia Zhi outside the hall as he lamented, “I knew the restrictions around this place wouldn't be able to hold you back, Fellow Daoist Lin.”

“Why didn't you run?” Lin Xun asked as he looked around the whole hall.

“Instead of running and hiding, I prefer to fight it out with you fair and square. Even if I die, it shall be an honorable death.” Tushan Leng slowly got up and said with a calm demeanor, “But before that, can I ask you something?”

“Go ahead,” Lin Xun nonchalantly said, being to the point with his words.

Tushan Leng asked, “On your path of cultivation so far, have you ever thought what is the reason you embarked on it in the first place?”

Lin Xun was caught off guard. He hadn't expected such a question from the other party. After thinking for a moment, he replied, “Initially, it was to survive.”

When he was a child, he and Lu Boya had led a rather unpleasant life in a mine prison. His physical constitution had been weak and prone to sickness. If it hadn't been for Lu Boya taking good care of him and teaching him how to cultivate, surviving would have been almost impossible for him.

“To think that someone as heaven-defying as you only started out trying to survive.” After a moment of a daze, Tushan Leng continued, “The matter of survival was resolved, so what was the reason you persevered on the cultivation path?”

“Revenge.” Lin Xun did not think twice.

The look in Tushan Leng's eyes became odd. “What about now? You already possess the power to defeat Immeasurable Dao Lords and aren't far from becoming a true Immeasurable Sovereign. What is the reason you're still keeping on going?”

“There aren't so many reasons in this world,” Lin Xun whispered. “If I have to sum it up, then it's quite simple: cultivation to me is every breath I take, every move I make, and every thought I have. It is as natural as how mortal beings go from birth to death. If you're too fixated on the why, then it will only be detrimental and may well even become an invisible cage that traps you from making progress.”

As he spoke, his state of mind became increasingly clear and pure. At first, he had started cultivation to live. Later, it was a tool to take revenge. Now, cultivation had long been a part of his life. Why did there have to be a reason for something so natural, unrestrained, and free?

“An invisible cage that traps you from making progress...” Tushan Leng muttered. After what felt like half a day, he clasped his fist. “My eyes have been opened.”

Following that, he straightened his posture, his expression unprecedentedly calm. “Fellow Daoist Lin, you may start.”

Chapter 3175 Retracing the Past, a Dream of Golden Millet

The hall was silent, an oppressive aura permeating the air. Lin Xun swept his gaze over the crowd and asked, “How come you guys are the only ones here?”

Tushan Leng was silent for a moment before he said, “The other colleagues left in fear of your might, Fellow Daoist Lin, which is them waving their white flag. Should you come across them in the future, I hope you could show mercy.”

Saying that, he smiled bitterly. “Of course I know that I'm in no position to ask this of you, but from what I've seen, those colleagues of mine will never dare to be your enemy ever again.”

Lin Xun mused, “What about you guys, why didn't you leave?”

This time, Tushan Leng said outright, “We are acting under an order from above to remain stationed in the Dark Zone.”

“I see.” Lin Xun nodded and asked out of nowhere, “If something bad happens to the Alpha Origin Master one day, how should you all deal with yourselves?”

Tushan Leng’s group was collectively stunned. His Lordship...will lose?

They had never thought about this possibility, for the might of the Alpha Origin Master had long been ingrained in their impression. No one would ever think that he would lose to anything!

“Just think about it.”

With that, Lin Xun turned and left. Xia Zhi followed closely behind. Even after they disappeared from sight, Tushan Leng and the others were still incredulous. Lin Xun left...just like that?

“He actually spared us?” It was only after a long silence that someone asked in confusion and disbelief.

“Perhaps in his eyes, we old things are no different from small fries, and only those above the level of Immeasurable Dao Lords can be taken seriously...” another said bitterly.

“By what he just said, he plans to go against the supreme master?” another wondered with a shocked look.

“Regardless, it's a blessing that we get to live this time, no?” someone muttered.

At this moment, the quiet Tushan Leng suddenly bowed and cupped his fist toward the grand entrance. Although he said not a word, everyone present understood that he was thanking Lin Xun for not killing them!

.....

In the void.

“Why didn't you kill them?” a puzzled Xia Zhi asked. Lin Xun was the decisive type and usually wouldn't show mercy in similar situations.

Lin Xun casually said, “When the tree falls, the monkeys scatter. Their tree is the Alpha Origin Master, and only by defeating this individual can we end the problem once and for all. Otherwise, no matter how many we kill, he can just cultivate a constant stream of new subordinates in no time.

“Of course, there's a more important reason why I let them live: they're bound to share this news with the other Heavenly Mandate Apostles of the Nine Departments of Alpha Origin. In the future, whoever intends to interfere with us again will have to carefully weigh the consequences.”

“Just like back in the Mortal Transformation Zone, when you spared that middle-aged man in the capital of the Qing Kingdom?” Xia Zhi asked.

“Yes, sparing their lives will actually lead to their morale and order falling apart internally. If we kill them, there won't be anyone to help spread the message to the rest of our enemies,” Lin Xun explained. “Of course, the most important thing is to deal with the Alpha Origin Master. As they say, to catch brigands, first catch their leader, or else the scourge forever stays.”

“But can you defeat him yet?” Xia Zhi asked.

Lin Xun shook his head and said softly, “Not yet, but what I have is the opportunity to improve, while he no longer has it, that's my advantage!”

“I don't get it?” Xia Zhi was a bit confused.

Lin Xun patiently explained, “A long time ago, the Alpha Origin Master arrived at the All-Wonder Dominion. At the time, he was just like us now, slowly passing the ninefold gates of the Realm of All Spirits, traversing the Dao Slaying Path, and ultimately arriving in the Realm of All Mysteries.

“During this process, he similarly obtained primal chaos origin after primal chaos origin, which allowed his dao to reach an unimaginable level. I even suspect that he has already taken a step up from the very peak of the Greater Boundless Realm, meaning Immeasurable Sovereigns in the general sense are no longer a match for him.

“However, despite being that powerful, he's still trapped in the Realm of All Mysteries. As you also know, beyond the Realm of All Mysteries, there is also the Realm of Myriad Wonders, aka the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders. No one has ever dared to travel there since the dawn of time, same for the Alpha Origin Master and Senior Chen Xi.

“Judging from this, supreme figures like Alpha Origin and Chen Xi have hit a bottleneck and have been unable to advance another inch in their cultivation for countless moons now. Otherwise, they would have long gone to explore the Forbidden Land of Myriad Wonders.”

At this part, Xia Zhi voiced her doubt, “Isn't the Alpha Origin Master restricted by the sword seal of that swordsman?”

“Who knows if he truly can't break free or is deliberately putting on an act?” Lin Xun said, “Either way, even Senior Chen Xi has remained in the Realm of All Mysteries all this time as well. He must be like Alpha Origin, either standing at the peak of the Immeasurable Realm or having made one step beyond the Eternal path.

“Despite that, characters of their caliber have been stuck in the Realm of All Mysteries for epochs. This is proof that they have made no breakthroughs or advancements all this time.”

Lin Xun paused briefly before continuing, “But it's different for me. My dao still has room for improvement. The Dark Zone is only the third sky zone of the Realm of All Mysteries, there are six more sky zones and also the Dao Slaying Path.

“Whatever growth opportunities they obtained, I’ll also have the same chance to obtain. As long as I get to the Realm of All Mysteries alive, I have hopes to stand on equal ground with them!”

Towards the end of his speech, Lin Xun’s eyes had taken on the light of confidence. “When the day comes where there's no more gap in strength, what is there to fear, even if it's a direct confrontation with the Alpha Origin Master?”

Xia Zhi said softly, “And no matter what, you still have me.”

Lin Xun held her hand and smiled. “That’s right, I have you.”

There were still things that Lin Xun omitted, for example, in the Realm of All Mysteries, there was also the Lord of Fangchun Mountain, the golden cicada, as well as Chen Linkong and Chen Xi!

They were all waiting for him! Right now, the only thing he had to do was to break through all the obstacles ahead and work hard to improve his cultivation base!

“Let us head to the Past Retracing Zone.”

Saying this, Lin Xun raised a thought, and a heavenly gate appeared before him.

During the last three months here, he had absorbed plenty of primal chaos origin. This was tantamount to possessing the power of this Dark Zone in advance and thus there was no need to borrow Lingyuan’s power to invoke the heavenly gate.

Without any further ado, Lin Xun and Xia Zhi flew into the gate together.

.....

The fourth sky zone of the Realm of All Spirits was called Past Retracing. It was as the name implied, once cultivators entered this zone and started perceiving its Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws, they would enter the time flow of their past.

It was like turning back the clock. Cultivators would relive their lives, and the marvelous thing here was that it would be reality!

On the quest of cultivation, one was bound to undergo things they were unable to undo or change when they were weak. These were all moments of helplessness that turned into regrets. Even if they became a Greater Boundless Eternal, there was still no way to compensate for terrible experiences that had happened in the far past.

However, in the Past Retracing Zone, one had the opportunity to step into the past and do just that! Throughout history, most cultivators who got here would do everything in their power to go back and make up for the shortcomings in their life trajectory. This was the divine marvel of the Past Retracing Zone!

However, in doing so, one was required to shoulder great risks and even pay a hefty price, for one's past was by no means an isolated line, but instead was like a net of thousands of karmic threads that involved many other people and affairs.

For example, the friends and enemies one had made and the various deeds that one had encountered on the path of cultivation were interconnected. Any alteration at any node would lead to a whole series of changes in the life of others. At that time, whether it was a blessing or a curse was completely out of one's control.

In the past, there was once a mighty expert who went back to the past to amend a regret during their youth. They had succeeded but proceeded to drop dead.

The reason lay in the unexpected changes that followed the alternation. Unforeseeable catastrophes had befallen, and so this mighty expert had been unable to return from their past before they perished in it.

There were many more similar examples. Some managed to amend all of the regrets they had, only for changes to arise and affect many subsequent life nodes. When an unmanageable disaster occurred during those nodes, the cultivator died and could no longer return to the present.

Of course, there were also great sages who, with their calm, perseverance, and wisdom, had not only made up for their past flaws but also advanced further on their cultivation path, welcoming in incredible metamorphoses.

In the final analysis, the Past Retracing Zone offered the opportunity to go back and fix one's past with a huge risk entailed. It could either turn out to be a blessing or a curse.

In the Past Retracing Zone, there was only one kingdom called Huai'an. The imperial capital of Huai'an was called Nanke.

Those who wished to return to their past had to first go to Nanke because only in this city could they study the ‘Pillow of Golden Millet’ in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws. This pillow was a divine artifact made of primal chaos origin power. Falling asleep on it would result in an experience similar to sleepwalking where one walked back into the past.

In a clear, vast expanse of heaven and earth with only beautiful clouds in the sky, Lin Xun and Xia Zhi appeared out of thin air. After surveying the surroundings, they flew straight forward.

They had gotten all the important information on this Past Retracing Zone, but as newcomers, they had no idea which direction the Huai'an Kingdom was. For now, they could only teleport around to see if they could stumble upon any fellow cultivators.

“Xia Zhi, if there is a chance to return to the past, what would you do?” on the way, Lin Xun asked with a smile.

“I would do nothing. What I have right now is perfect,” replied Xia Zhi without thinking before she asked back, “What about you? Have you thought about what you'd do when you go back to the past?”

Chapter 3176 Meeting an Old Acquaintance

Lin Xun pondered for a moment, shook his head, and said, “The regrets, remorse, hatred, and helplessness I have experienced may be numerous, but they are all precious to me.”

After some thought, he added, “As for my dao, having been honed through countless times of being hung on the balance of life and death, I don't think there's anything that needs fixing.”

He was not boasting. If his path had gone wrong at any point in the past, how could he have achieved his current heights?

Xia Zhi softly said, “Then, you are like me, not interested in this going back to the past stuff?”

“Well, I'm not entirely disinterested. I'm curious about the origin power of this Past Retracing Zone. Don't you think it's quite a miraculous power to be able to allow cultivators to travel back and remedy their past flaws?” Lin Xun smilingly asked.

“Mhm...” Xia Zhi said, “I guess I do want to take a look as well.”

While they were talking, there was a sound of air ripping in the distance. They looked over and saw several figures zooming fast under the sky.

“Excuse me...” said Lin Xun.

A cold voice cut him off, “Out of the way!”

It came from the expert at the very front of that group. He was dressed in black and had hair that was the color of blood. With thumb-sized, golden lights of law power circling him, his might was astonishing. His group teleported through the void in a hurry as if fleeing for their lives, their faces all making a grave expression.

“Looks like they are being chased after...” Lin Xun pondered.

Suddenly, a voice as clear as ice rang out from the horizon, “Young Friend Lin Xun, help me stop them!”

Lin Xun squinted. He quickly waved his sleeve and chanted, “Doh!”

Boom!

A heavenly rift made of great dao law power appeared out of nowhere, stretching across space as it blocked the black-clad man and his party.

“You have a death wish!” The black-clad man's face sank. He angrily slashed a sword at the heavenly rift. The scarlet sword qi deployed seemed to come from a world of chaos, emitting a mighty destructive power of boundless terror.

Kabang!

When it landed on the rift, however, it crumbled inch by inch. While the rift, as if impregnable, was not shaken in the slightest.

“What...”

The expressions of the black-clad, scarlet-haired man and his companions changed.

As they were about to attack again, Lin Xun flickered through the distance with a smile. “I’ll have to ask you all to stop.”

Accompanying his arrival was a storm of an invisible pressure rapidly sweeping through the entire field. The black-clad man and company stopped breathing for a second as they felt a deadly threat hitting them in the face.

Their expressions changed again, and none of them dared to carelessly make a move.

“Who are you, why are you meddling in our affairs?” The black-clad man's face turned livid.

The aura emanating from Lin Xun was so terrifying that he felt as though he was faced with a sovereign who stood proudly above the nine heavens. His dao heart palpitated in a way that words could not describe. As a result, he refrained from acting out despite the anxiety and anger that urged him to do otherwise.

The other five people around him were the same. Each was filled with killing intent but they also revealed a trace of nervousness.

“I have no grudge against you, but the one who's after you is an old friend of mine, that's why I had to stop you,” Lin Xun smilingly explained.

“Thanks a lot, my young friend.”

A fiery red silhouette teleported in right at this moment. She had the appearance of a young woman who was radiantly beautiful. It was none other than Su Wanjun!

The black-clad man's and company's hearts lurched down.

“Senior, what's the situation?” asked Lin Xun.

“I’ll explain everything after I kill these despicable bastards.” Su Wanjun's eyes were murderous, and she already attacked as she spoke.

Clang!

A light green sword emerged in the air, its sharpness overwhelmed the heavens.

“Nothing to lose now, get her!”

How could the black-clad man and his party possibly wait for their death? They went all out. However, they stiffened the next second. A petrifying pressure was falling upon them like a massive mountain, rendering them unable to move.

No!

They were scared witless, but it was already too late to do anything. Su Wanjun's sword was so swift and sharp that in the same instant, a series of poofs echoed as the black-clad man's group of six got sliced to bits. Their blood flew like a waterfall.

Just before their death, they looked in Lin Xun's direction, obviously having realized that he was the culprit behind the imprisonment of their strength. Unfortunately, they had realized it a little too late.

Meanwhile, a stunned Su Wanjun stared at the gory scene for a good moment. How could she not know that Lin Xun was the key reason why it was so easy to kill these opponents? She put away her sword, assessed Lin Xun, and remarked, “The speed of your improvements in the dao astonishes me.”

Just by virtue of his might, he had been able to restrained six powerful Greater Boundless Eternals at once, which even she was incapable of! Lin Xun must have undergone some earth-shattering metamorphosis after entering the All-Wonder Dominion, there was no doubt about it! This caused Su Wanjun to look at him in a strange way.

Lin Xun laughed. “You flatter me, Senior. Now that your enemies have been dealt with, can you tell me the story behind this?”

Su Wanjun scanned the surroundings and said, “Let's talk on the way?”

“Where to?”

“Nanke City, the capital of Huai'an Kingdom.”

“Haha, that would be excellent. Xia Zhi and I were planning to head there, but we didn't know which way to go since we're new to this zone. It's no longer a problem now thanks to you.” Lin Xun was delighted.

“Then let's go.” Su Wanjun immediately took Lin Xun and Xia Zhi and disappeared from the area.

On the way, Lin Xun learned about what happened from Su Wanjun.

Not long ago, she had successfully studied the Pillow of Golden Millet in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws in Nanke City. She had consequently entered the past in her dream, sending both her soul and dao back in time. Meanwhile, her body had remained in Nanke City in the protection of the restriction that she had set up in advance.

However, not long afterward, she, while trekking in the river of time, had sensed danger and returned to the present to find herself in a fatal situation! The threat had come from that black-clad man and his party.

They had breached her restriction and had been in the middle of an attempt to take away her dao body. Fortunately, her soul and cultivation base had returned at the critical juncture and narrowly escaped the catastrophe, or else the consequences would have been beyond serious.

Due to that, a furious Su Wanjun had chased after the other party all the way from Nanke City.

“There was bad blood between you before?” Lin Xun couldn't help but ask.

“No, none of that.” Su Wanjun shook her head. “Their purpose was to coerce me into joining the Zhen Department under Alpha Origin.”

“They were Heavenly Mandate Apostles of the Zhen Department?” Lin Xun was taken aback.

“Yes.” Su Wanjun said, “They are the most powerful force in the Past Retracing Zone who act under the orders of the Heavenly Mandate Dao Lord of the Zhen Department, Lei Xuanting. Their leader in this zone is Heavenly Lord Xuelian, an old fogey from the Demonic Epoch.”

She then seemed to remember something and added, “Speaking of which, Heavenly Lord Xuelian is related to Ying Tiansheng. They both hail from the number one dao lineage of Demonic Epoch, and in terms of seniority, Ying Tiansheng would have to call him his martial granduncle.”

Lin Xun was stunned. “You mean this Heavenly Lord Xuelian most likely knows that I killed Ying Tiansheng and a bunch of other experts from the Demonic Epoch?”

“Naturally.” Su Wanjun said, “But as far as I'm concerned, Xuelian is no match for you now.”

Lin Xun smiled. “If those Heavenly Mandate Apostles of the Zhen Department know that I'll be at Nanke City, they're definitely going to make trouble.”

“What are you going to do about it?” asked Su Wanjun.

“Depends on what they'll do.” Lin Xun chuckled.

Mid-conversation, the outline of a huge city appeared in the far horizon. According to Su Wanjun, they had already reached the borderland of Huai'an Kingdom. From here, it would only take half a day to reach its capital, Nanke City.

The three wasted no time as they kept teleporting toward their destination. Along the way, Lin Xun saw that Huai'an had many cities and towns. Each planted scholar trees throughout without fail, and the citizens were all pure mortals.

The situation here was the same as in the Mortal Transformation Zone, cultivators and mortals did not interfere with each other and could not influence each other.

Upon finally seeing Nanke City from afar, Lin Xun was amazed. It was a strange city, built on a colossal scholar tree that rose up to the sky. Each leaf was ten thousand feet in diameter, and on the leaf veins were packed buildings lining up.

Along the trunk and branches were roads that connected and intersected in a seemingly messy way but were in fact in harmony. From a distance, it looked like a tree city!

“Imperial City Nanke is really something else,” Lin Xun sighed.

His gaze swept the huge scholar tree from the bottom up and sighted the rolling waves of the red dust. Countless beings inhabited different areas, staging a grand play of worldly affairs, mundane or emotional. It was in stark contrast to the top area of the tree crown, which was full of various terrifying auras belonging to the mighty!

“That on the crown is the most important area of Nanke City, and it is also the place where it is easiest for us cultivators to perceive the Pillow of Golden Millet in the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws,” Su Wanjun quietly introduced.

Having been in the Past Retracing Zone for over a decade, she was naturally familiar with the situation here. While talking, she flew toward the tree with Lin Xun and Xia Zhi. After entering Nanke City, they continued to fly up through the heavy layers of leaves that was comparable to a small sky dome, and finally arrived at the crown.

The leaves here were clustered together. Being ten thousand feet in diameter each, they hosted many streets and buildings that, in a whole, resembled a colorfully grotesque spiderweb.

On one of the streets, Su Wanjun floated down with Lin Xun and Xia Zhi. It was at this moment that Lin Xun keenly felt quite a few gazes directed over from the neighborhood. However, it wasn't him and Xia Zhi that they were looking at, it was Su Wanjun.

Chapter 3177 Slaughter

Su Wanjun also noticed those gazes but paid them no heed. “They probably thought I'd never dare to set foot in Nanke City again after being targeted by those fellows from the Zhen Department.”

Lin Xun instantly understood and laughed. “As it happens, the Alpha Origin Nine Departments are my enemy too. If they still insist on knocking on our door, I'd actually like to see what they're capable of.”

His voice was flat and casual, and as it rang out, the distant sky suddenly shook. There, a magnificent and dazzling figure emerged from thin air. It was a handsome and dashing man in silver armor with a silver halberd in his hand. Crystalline and radiant dao light flowed all over him, making him look intimidating.

“Sure enough, it's you, demoness!” His eyes were like electricity. As they locked onto Su Wanjun from afar, murderous intent surfaced on his expression.

“Look at that, we've only just arrived, and someone already can't wait to die,” said Su Wanjun with a cold arc on a corner of her lips. While speaking, she jumped to action without a warning, summoning her sword and chopping it at the silver-armored man in a precise and straightforward manner.

In the eyes of bystanders, Su Wanjun's move was incomparably overbearing! The silver-armored man was a Heavenly Mandate Apostle of the Zhen Department. Virtually no one in this zone had the guts to provoke him before, but Su Wanjun was different. The word ‘scruples’ didn't seem to exist in her dictionary.

Clang!

A deafening clash resounded. Su Wanjun's sword was blocked by a purple ruyi scepter, and its wielder was not the silver-armored man, but instead an old man in a Taoist robe who had appeared out of nowhere.

The whole region fell silent at his presence, and many people revealed apprehensive looks.

Heavenly Lord Xuelian! In today's Past Retracing Zone, he was undoubtedly one of the most powerful existences. Moreover, he was also the leader of the Zhen Department's branch in this zone, having over thirty Heavenly Mandate Apostles under his command!

"Su Wanjun, where are those members of our department?"

Heavenly Lord Xuelian spoke with an indifferent expression. Behind him, three dao lotuses emerged protectively in a formation shaped like 品. His tall frame was bathed in a gorgeous light of law power which elevated him into an immortal god.

You guys are a tad too late. I killed them on my way back to this city," Su Wanjun casually said.

They are dead?" Heavenly Lord Xuelian's face sank, killing intent erupting in his eyes. "This matter cannot be settled with peaceful means, so it seems!"

Boom!

The void around him tumbled as one powerful figure emerged after another, each glowing with a sky-blotting aura. Counting in Heavenly Lord Xuelian and the silver-armored man, it was a group of twenty-one experts!

The powerful lineup sent chills through the hearts of the cultivators scattered in the surroundings. Having a bad premonition, they quickly retreated far away for fear of being caught up in the conflict.

Young Friend Lin Xun, what do you think? If you're unsure about our odds, we can avoid them for now and handle them slowly," Su Wanjun whispered. "There's no shame in this, nothing is more important than staying alive."

These words came from her heart. At the very least, she wasn't certain of her chances against such a lineup.

Avoid us for now? You think you're still able to leave at this point?” Heavenly Lord Xuelian asked indifferently.

The experts around him also revealed cold smirks. Their auras spread and enveloped the region, locking on the space around Su Wanjun, Lin Xun, and Xia Zhi.

However, Lin Xun ignored it all, smiling as he said to Su Wanjun, “Staying alive is most important indeed, but I'm afraid that none of them will have that luxury today.”

His remark was said in a casual manner, but what it implied was as overbearing and confident as it could get! Heavenly Lord Xuelian and company were stunned as their eyes finally landed on Lin Xun who stood next to Su Wanjun.

Without waiting for them to react, Su Wanjun raised her sword. “Since you've said so, I have more reason to hesitate.”

Boom!

She leapt up and stabbed out her sword.

Lin Xun finally understood that Su Wanjun was completely the type to jump into a fight at the drop of a hat. She hated talking nonsense and wasting time, and couldn't be bothered to analyze things in depth. That was why she was so decisive and effective when she acted.

Go!” Heavenly Lord Xuelian waved his hand. The crowd of experts around him started moving like gods going out to war, and their killing intent filled the atmosphere.

RUMBLE~~

The sky became dull, and the space was in disarray. As Heavenly Lord Xuelian's group of twenty-one powerful cultivators attacked together, they appeared unstoppable in the eyes of the distant spectators!

A great variety of supreme skills intertwined alongside all types of Eternal weapons. The monstrous power unleashed gave the onlookers the creeps and struck despair despite them being far away.

Su Wanjun didn't retreat. Instead, she moved forward with her sword. However, Lin Xun suddenly appeared before her and said, "Senior, leave these weaklings to me."

The moment he started saying this, a sword appeared in his hand. As his words were echoing, the sword drew a casual slash. When his voice stopped resounding, the slash had grown into an unstoppable arc of light that utterly crushed the oncoming attacks from the enemies!

BOOM!

In a sky full of slashing sparks, all the Eternal weapons were sent flying while whimpering. Heavenly Lord Xuelian and his group were rattled to the point they staggered back. Their qi and blood churned as their expressions twisted. How can a sword strike have that kind of power?!

The distant spectators were all caught off guard and gawked, jaws agape as they almost couldn't believe their own eyes. Is...isn't this a little too fierce? Who is this man? Where did Su Wanjun find such a heaven-defying helper?

Even Su Wanjun was startled. She knew that Lin Xun had grown incredibly powerful, but she had not expected this degree of power!

Only Xia Zhi, who had been watching from a distance, was calm and still.

I know, he's Lin Xun!" one of Heavenly Lord Xuelian's companions suddenly exclaimed in shock.

Lin Xun!

The rest of the group, including Heavenly Lord Xuelian, felt sharp jolts in their hearts as the various deeds and rumors about Lin Xun came to their minds. None of them had expected that he would come so quickly. It had been only three months since he had left the first sky zone, and yet he had already arrived in the fourth sky zone, this Past Retracing Zone.

Since you seem to know me, there's no need for explanation.” Lin Xun said, swinging his sword as he charged in.

Kill!”

How could Heavenly Lord Xuelian and his group dare to be slow to react? They went all out. Unfortunately, all resistance was destined to be futile. The gap in strength was too great. Even Immeasurable Dao Lords had ceased to be a match for Lin Xun for a long time now, let alone the likes of Heavenly Lord Xuelian.

Lin Xun’s silhouette moved like electricity, waving his sword like chopping vegetables. Every chop raised blood, followed by the collapse of an opponent. Pierced or cleaved by the blade, or crushed by the sword intent, they died in various ways.

In just several blinks, over half of the enemies were gone one after another. The bloody scene hit so hard that the distant spectators felt their hands and feet going cold, and they were rooted on the spot in a stupor.

To those like me, these are formidable enemies on the Immeasurable path, but to him, they are chickens that he can be slaughtered with ease.” An indescribable emotion surged in Su Wanjun. The difference in strength was so great that Heavenly Lord Xuelian and company completely fell short, and the battle was one-sided from the very start!

We’re leaving!” The only remaining members of Xuelian's party were so shocked and scared that their eyes bulged. They turned the other way and fled.

How could Lin Xun let them? As he took a step forward, the sword in his hand trembled and emitted a clear chant. The next second, endless sword intent rose up in the sky, blotting the space between

heaven and earth. The world seemed to have become an ocean of raging sword qi all of a sudden, submerging Heavenly Lord Xuelian and his group!

Visible to the naked eye, their bodies cracked and disintegrated like snow melting under heat. One by one, they were destroyed in both form and spirit. In a total of ten breaths, twenty-one Heavenly Mandate Envoys of the Zhen Department had met their demise!

Clang!

When Lin Xun put away his sword, the region was dead silent. Only the smell of blood permeated the air.

As if waking up from a dream, a dazed Su Wanjun asked Lin Xun who was walking back to her, “You’ve reached the realm of Immeasurable Sovereign?”

She was astonished, and considering what Lin Xun had just shown, she was sure that even Immeasurable Dao Lords were nowhere as powerful as him!

Not yet.” Lin Xun shook his head. “I still have a little bit more to go to get there.”

A little bit left to go, huh...” Su Wanjun was speechless. He was not yet an Immeasurable Sovereign but already possessed strength that far exceeded Immeasurable Dao Lords. This simply overturned her perception.

Senior, let's go somewhere else to talk.” Lin Xun looked around and detected quite a number of auras approaching from the horizon. They were clearly alerted by the commotion from the battle just now.

Alright.” Su Wanjun snapped back to reality. Quickly regaining her composure, she led Lin Xun and Xia Zhi to leave the area. It was only after they vanished from sight that the spectators slowly returned from their stupor.

Terrifying...”

Lin Xun is too strong, even Immeasurable Dao Lords aren't as strong as him!”

Heavenly Lord Xuelian and his crew have been dominant in this zone for so long, yet they got slaughtered like farm animals. I wouldn't have believed this if I hadn't seen it with my own two eyes.”

All kinds of comments rang out. By this time, many cultivators had arrived after catching wind of the battle. After learning about the details, they all gasped nonstop while their hearts quivered.

Words of this matter spread rapidly in the Past Retracing Zone on the same day, and every cultivator it reached was flabbergasted. It was made clear to everyone that no one in this zone was Lin Xun's opponent!

As for the remaining Heavenly Mandate Apostles of the Zhen Department scattered here, if they learned of what had happened to Heavenly Lord Xuelian's group, they probably wouldn't dare to go find and offend Lin Xun anymore. In fact, they'd have to worry about him going after them!

All in all, Lin Xun had caused a huge uproar on his first day in the Past Retracing Zone and became famous after this battle. The man himself was oblivious to it, and even if he knew, he wouldn't have cared anyway. At this moment, he and Xia Zhi landed in a quiet courtyard in Nanke City following Su Wanjun’s lead.

Chapter 3178 Embarking on the River of the Past

The red-clad Su Wanjun, carrying a pot of wine, poured a cup for Lin Xun and Xia Zhi each. The aroma of the liquor immediately drifted around the courtyard. Afterwards, she poured herself a cup and said, “The name of this wine is Humble Heart. I practically begged for it from an old friend. I have treasured it until now and have hardly been able to bring myself to take a sip. Try it.”

Saying that, she downed her cup, and her fair cheeks instantly took on a touch of bright pink.

Lin Xun raised his cup and sipped it. Immediately, circles of something marvelous rippled in his mind. He fell into a complete trance for a moment, feeling as though a thousand kinds of flavors were soaking his chest.

A long while later, he nodded and asked, ''Truly a great wine... Was it a gift from Senior Swordsman?”

Su Wanjun glanced at Lin Xun in surprise. “It is indeed, but don't ask me anything about him, or else...”

She pointed at her chest. “My heart, and my state of mind will have a problem.”

Lin Xun's heart trembled as he understood the huge danger being implied. It was highly likely that the swordsman had become an obsession for her! One she clung to so stubbornly that she didn't want to mention it to anyone!

Originally, Lin Xun had planned to tell her about the three-inch wooden sword and Lingyuan, but he dismissed the idea after hearing that.

The three then moved to the topic of the Past Retracing Zone. As they chatted over wine, Lin Xun gained further knowledge of the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws here.

The primal chaos origin power of this zone had transformed into the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws that upheld it. In order to attract a Chaos Dao Fruit and leave through its heavenly gate, a cultivator must study the Pillow of Golden Millet, regardless of whether they decided to change their past or not.

Su Wanjun had long gotten the opportunity to leave, but she didn't want to yet and had even settled down in the Past Retracing Zone. When she would leave was entirely up to her. Although she didn't explain her reason, Lin Xun could guess to some extent.

Through the Pillow of Golden Millet, it was possible for Su Wanjun to return to her past, a section of which had that swordsman who occupied the most important position in her heart.

“Senior, I don't know if I should say this, but...” Lin Xun murmured.

“I know what you want to say. Don't worry, I won't try to change anything. I know that would do no good and even consign me to eternal damnation.” Su Wanjun looked calm, as if she had seen through it all long ago.

She added after some thought, “When I first arrived at the All-Wonder Dominion, I thought that I'd find him here, waiting for me, only to learn very late that he has long entered reincarnation. But it doesn't matter, I believe that he'll come back one day. In the past, he waited for me here. Now, it's my turn to wait for him.”

Towards the end, her voice revealed a calm but firm determination.

Lin Xun inwardly sighed as he listened. He didn't know the relationship between Su Wanjun and the swordsman, but he could feel her ‘infatuation’! In this kind of matter, he was destined to not be able to offer any help.

.....

That night, Xia Zhi sat cross-legged with her eyes closed in the courtyard, meditating on the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws of this sky zone. Lin Xun stood not far away guarding her. Time passed in the quiet darkness.

Shortly into the session, he keenly perceived mysterious strings of primal chaos origin cascading from the sky and bathing Xia Zhi in them. Her aura then underwent a soundless change, and like entering an out-of-body experience, her soul vanished alongside her cultivation base. Only her beautiful, petite figure remained, immersed in the aura of primal chaos origin.

“She has sensed the Pillow of Golden Millet and entered into her past life,” Su Wanjun whispered.

Lin Xun's eyes flickered. “To be able to let cultivators trace back their past, what the origin power of this zone concerns is too mystical.”

Su Wanjun casually said, “The past, present, and future represent one's life. If you study it in depth, you will easily see that it involves the powers of fate, karma, and time. Going back to the past is like going against the flow of time, changing it is the same as changing one's fate, and when your fate changes, the karma you’ve woven changes with it.

“But the Past Retracing Zone's primal chaos origin is clearly not so simple to explain. Since it can send back even Greater Boundless Eternals like us to change our fate and karma, I'm afraid it is a power far higher than fate, karma, and time!”

Lin Xun nodded. He had also pondered this matter but arrived at somewhat different explanations. “I don't think it’s a power higher than fate, karma, and time. Rather, as I see it, the power of the primal chaos origin here involves the ultimate enigmas of these three supreme daos.”

Having grasped the laws of fate and time, he was well aware how mysterious and occult beyond imagination they were. Even up until now, he had only cultivated them to the level of an Immeasurable law. As for their ultimate, highest enigmas, he had not the clear shape of a clue.

In the final analysis, it came down to one's self-cultivation level. The dao was an infinite road.

At the five lesser cultivation realms, what the cultivators fathomed was Dao Ripple and Dao Meaning. At the Longevity King Stage, they comprehended Longevity laws. The Saint Stage mastered Saint laws. The Emperor Stage wielded Emperor laws. The Immortal Stage wielded Immortal Laws. The Realm of Eternals, as one would expect, controlled Eternal laws.

However, whether it was the case of Dao Ripple, Dao Meaning, Saint dao, Emperor dao, Immortal dao, or Eternal dao, in the end, it was all about one's mastery! The reason was that continuous improvement of one's cultivation base enhanced the depth of one's perception and understanding of the great dao.

For example, as incredible as Lin Xun's strength was, the daos in his control were still limited to the Immeasurable level.

The origin power of the Past Retracing Zone obviously involved fate, time, and karma, but it was on a level beyond Lin Xun's current comprehensive capabilities. That was why he had made such a judgment.

“You have a good point there. The Immeasurable Realm is regarded as the ultimate realm of the almighty dao, and reaching its perfection is considered ascending the peak. But I've been thinking, what if it is only the last realm of the Eternal path? What if there is a higher path after the Eternal Stage?” Su Wanjun mumbled, “This question is bound to have no answer. After all, if there really is a higher path, then why would he choose to reincarnate?”

‘He’ was naturally that swordsman.

Lin Xun said, “Actually, I think it’s because he saw that higher path that he decided to enter reincarnation and start over, all to find a way to step onto that path, to completely break out of the Immeasurable Realm and transcend from the Eternal path in one fell swoop.”

Su Wanjun was stunned. After some silence, she said, “Maybe you're right.”

When it came to the mystery of ultimate transcendence, no one in the whole All-Wonder Dominion had been able to provide a definite answer so far! Hence, there had sprung up all sorts of theories and speculations.

“Do you want to go ahead and study the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws as well? I can guard both you and Miss Xia Zhi,” asked Su Wanjun.

Lin Xun shook his head. “I’ll wait for Xia Zhi to return first.”

Su Wanjun did not insist. To her surprise, only an hour later, Xia Zhi suddenly trembled, and then glowed with her original energy and vital fluctuations. Finally, she quietly opened her eyes, and the primal chaos origin aura enveloping her disappeared with it.

“Already?” Su Wanjun blurted out.

“I only watched my past unfold and didn't change anything.” Xia Zhi stood up.

“There’s not one thing you've ever thought of changing?” Su Wanjun asked.

“I care more about the present than the past and the future,” replied Xia Zhi without thinking.

Su Wanjun looked at Xia Zhi, then at Lin Xun, and seemed to understand something. She became a little bit emotional inside. If she could be like Xia Zhi, not caring about the past or the future, only focusing on the present, what kind of joy would that be?

Next, Lin Xun sat down cross-legged and began to meditate on the Heavenly Cycle Dao Laws of this world. Almost immediately, his spirit sense captured the obscure and marvelous primal chaos origin power. In a trance, there was a cyclone sweeping his soul up through the nine heavens and beyond, blowing him into a vast space of nothingness.

Following that, a jade pillow made of primal chaos origin appeared in his mind, surging the unspeakably abstruse aura of fate, karma, and time.

The second Lin Xun raised a thought, his consciousness underwent a brief dizzy episode. As if sleepwalking back in time, his spirit and cultivation base quietly left his dao body.

Whooooosh... Rustle...

In the vast nothingness, a great river rushed out of nowhere into the infinite depths. Lin Xun's figure appeared above it.

This is the river of time of my past?

When Lin Xun glanced at it, countless scenes were reflected in the river: the moment he was born, the time he spent with Lu Boya in the mine prison, the tranquil life he led as a youth in Feiyun Village... The rolling waves and their bubbles were the life nodes of his past, sketching out a long and magnificent river of life—his past!

The unbelievable sight gave Lin Xun many ideas that he could not suppress. There was no medicine for regret, but right before him now was the chance to remedy the shortcomings in his past. What was the difference between this and a regret pill? As long as he wanted, he could make it happen!

Presented with such a choice, how many people in the world could resist the temptation?

Before long, however, Lin Xun calmed down.

Just like Xia Zhi, there was nothing in his past that needed to be compensated for or changed at all. Even if there were flaws and chapters of resentment, helplessness, and regret, they were all precious experiences to him.

They were the cornerstone on which he had built his path, the reason why he was able to have his current dao achievements!

Chapter 3179 The Hidden Danger in Inceptive Fate

Standing on the river of his past, Lin Xun watched the scenes playing with indescribable sentiments. Who had not made mistakes in their youth? Who had not fumbled their way through storm and hardship? However, it was those experiences that shaped and tempered him into the person he was today!

Looking back at the past from his current perspective, he clearly noticed many things he had not done well enough. In fact, he had even made quite many mistakes that had resulted in regrettable shortcomings. However, they added vivid colors to his life, as how real 'living' was supposed to be.

The reason why life was so wonderful lay in all the ups and downs. Those flaws were an indispensable part of his life, and as such, Lin Xun had no intention of fixing anything in this long river of his past.

"The past cannot be chased or fixed, or else my fate and karma will also be altered along with my memories. At that point...it'd no longer be the life that belongs to me," Lin Xun murmured.

Like Xia Zhi, he made this trip only to take a look at his past self and relive his life. When one's memories overlapped with the scenes of the past, the feelings and tastes they got would naturally be different.

A long time later, Lin Xun was about to leave when he suddenly remembered something, and he redirected his gaze at the river.

"My life was involved in all sorts of karma that steered my future course even before I was born. Tracing back to the source, what initially affected my destiny was the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer talent in my Origin Aeth Artery." Something flickered in Lin Xun's eyes.

The karma affecting a person's destiny was numerous and intricate. A trivial matter or a thought in passing could change one's life.

Pushing aside all those intricately intertwined threads and carefully tracking the origin, one would find the first moment a karma was born determined the direction of their inceptive fate .

If fate was a tree, then the beginning of fate was the roots. The way one's fate manifested under various influences was represented by the branches and leaves, which seemed luxuriantly chaotic but ultimately began from the roots. The karma that influenced the roots structured and upheld the whole tree like a sturdy trunk.

For Lin Xun, the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer talent was undoubtedly the greatest karma that determined his inceptive fate. His Origin Aeth Artery had been ripped from him at birth because of it. His cultivation path had also always been under its influence.

The five lesser realms, the Longevity King Stage, the Saint Stage, the Emperor Stage, and finally his Immortal path until now... His entire cultivation base was inextricably connected to the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer!

This talent provided him with a far greater potential and power than normal people, allowing him to awaken all sorts of natural abilities such as Time Stopping, Gate of Exile, Seal of Temporal Restriction, Blade of Time...

This moment, however, a question hit Lin Xun. Where did the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer talent come from?

He sank into silence as many past events surfaced in his mind.

It was true that the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer was a talent that he was born with, and it was something only the direct bloodline of the Luo Clan's could possess. However, he had later learned that this talent had only begun with Omega Lord Luo Tongtian.

In other words, it should not be something initially owned by the Luo Clan at all! Because Lin Xun knew that Luo Tongtian had obtained it from the Boat of Eternity while exploring the Fortune Dominion! It was also then that Luo Tongtian had taken away this supreme artifact that had originally belonged to the Eternal Night Divine Emperor!

As for the Omega Secret-Realm, it was the secret key to open the Boat of Eternity. During his youth, Lin Xun had reacquired the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer talent through the Omega Secret-Realm, thus gaining the opportunity to change his fate, a deed that defied the heavens!

In the final analysis, the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer came from the Boat of Eternity. The reason why Lin Xun suddenly wondered about its origin was because it had affected his very inceptive fate! Since the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer came from the Boat of Eternity, it meant what actually influenced his inceptive fate was this boat!

This was something that had never occurred to him before. Now, standing on this river reviewing his past and tracing back the karmic threads, he suddenly realized that he had never really investigated something so important that had shaped his life. What was the origin of the Boat of Eternity?

This question inexplicably gave him strange emotions.

Past Retracing Zone...

It allowed cultivators to trace their origins by sending them back to the past, allowing them to remedy the flaws in life. Once they did so, it was the same as trying to alter their fate and karma, which would lead to a series of unpredictable changes in their past.

This could end up being a blessing or a curse. Some had died as a result, while some had welcomed a whole new, improved destiny.

Lin Xun had originally thought he had nothing he wanted to make up for or do about his past, but after having noticed the karma tied to the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer, he realized that he had been wrong.

If he didn't find the true origin of the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer, anything that might happen to it in the future could well deal a deadly blow to everything he had today! Because it was the most crucial first karma that steered his life, the roots of countless later karmas!

The realization sent chills down his spine. Taking a deep breath, Lin Xun cleared his thoughts and began to ponder, “The Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer came from the Boat of Eternity, while the Boat of Eternity came from the Eternal Night Divine Emperor, but where did she get it from?”

Quickly, Lin Xun thought of a possibility. Without hesitation, he left the river’s realm.

.....

In the courtyard, Lin Xun, who was sitting cross-legged, opened his eyes.

Su Wanjun noticed it right away and asked, “Back already, Young Friend? I suppose you didn't do anything to your past’s trajectory either, huh?”

Lin Xun thought briefly and replied, “No, but I actually discovered a problem I've never thought of before, and it may well be the most deeply hidden danger on my path.”

He then looked at Xia Zhi. “Xia Zhi, are you able to recall the origin of the Boat of Eternity?”

Having refined the dao left by the Eternal Night Divine Emperor into her own, Xia Zhi had also gained insight into some of the latter's experiences and memories. Upon hearing the question, she searched her memory for a moment and replied, “This treasure came from inside the Eternity Door. The Eternal Night Divine Emperor brought it out very far back ago.”

“Just as I've thought.” Lin Xun's eyes gleamed meaningfully. Back on that river of the past, he had surmised this answer. Furthermore, he still remembered clearly how the Omega Lord had traveled to the Eternity Door and encountered a life-threatening disaster!

At the time, a terrifyingly powerful golden figure had emerged from inside the Eternity Door, followed by a bell draped in chaos qi that had heavily injured him in one strike! How could Lin Xun not recognize it to be the Alpha Origin Bell from the Alpha Origin Master?

My Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer talent came from the Boat of Eternity, and the Boat of Eternity came from the Eternity Door. Behind the Eternity Door, there was a treasure from the Alpha Origin Master...

Lin Xun's heart shuddered. There must be some deeper mystery behind this! If he hadn’t decided to take a look at his past on the long river of life, if he hadn't thought of deducing the first karma of his fate on a whim...then how could he possibly have noticed this?

If this mystery of his karma was left unsolved, then one day when he met the Alpha Origin Master, even if his cultivation base was at the other party's level, he would probably face unexpected changes due to this karma!

The more Lin Xun thought about it, the more grave his expression became. Only after a long silence did he ask, “Xia Zhi, can you find any information on the Eternity Door from the Eternal Night Divine Emperor's memories?”

Xia Zhi pondered so hard that her brows scrunched up. “I never really cared about this before, but now that you've asked... I've just tried to recall and found out that the memories around the Eternity Door are as if erased. I can't retrieve anything on it at all.”

From her answer, Lin Xun concluded with certainty that this matter was not simple.

“Young Friend, what exactly happened?” Su Wanjun couldn't help but ask, keenly realizing the turbulence in Lin Xun’s state of mind.

“I originally thought that my fate had always been in my hand, but just now, I realized that I might have been tainted with a huge karma as early as when I was born.” Lin Xun took a deep breath and began to elaborate on his Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer’s background.

After hearing the whole thing, Su Wanjun's eyes also took on a serious look. “You suspect that your Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer is related to the Alpha Origin Master?”

“Hard to say, but it's certain that he has extensive knowledge of this talent. Otherwise, why would the Alpha Origin Bell end up inside the Eternity Door?” As Lin Xun's feelings were a little complicated at the moment, his voice became heavy.

“If you ask me, this matter can be quite simple.” Su Wanjun said, “Your talent came from the Boat of Eternity, which came from the Eternity Door, so if you want to find out the whole truth, take another trip to the river of the past. Through it, you may be able to enter the Eternity Door!”

Lin Xun had also considered this option, but he had his concerns. He said, “The Alpha Origin Master also once came to the Past Retracing Zone. Surely he knows it allows cultivators to return to their past and make changes.

“So to speak, how could he not have guessed that I might notice the hidden danger in the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer and try to change it all by entering the Eternity Door via the river of the past?”

Su Wanjun's expression changed slightly as she agreed, “That is indeed a possibility.”

Lin Xun said, “If he had guessed it long ago, how could he not have prepared for it? For example, there might be a trap waiting for me in there if I decide to make an alteration?”

“Well...” Su Wanjun was also unsure. The karma involved was too complicated. Besides, this problem was merely Lin Xun's speculation. No one knew what the hidden danger actually was. Not only her, even Lin Xu hadn't been able to calm down even now. Who would have thought that he would uncover such a threat when retracing his past?

Every sip of water and every bite of food one took carried karma. If something had a cause, there must be an effect.

With Lin Xun's current cultivation level and his mastery of the law of fate, it was impossible for him not to understand that once something happened to his talent, the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer, it would definitely be a lethal blow!

Chapter 3180 Entering the Eternity Door

The part Lin Xun found tricky was thus. If the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer originated from the Alpha Origin Master, then the latter would have definitely anticipated that he would try to do something about it. As such, the Alpha Origin Master might have already planted a trap waiting for him to rush head first into!

However, he did nothing to remove this potential danger, then it could at any given time become a fatal threat.

“Lin Xun, you don't have to revisit the river of time for the Eternity Door,” Xia Zhi said suddenly and waved her hand.

Buzz!

A heavy-looking bronze coffin that was the Boat of Eternity floated out of thin air.

Xia Zhi said, “The Omega Secret-Realm is both the key to the Boat of Eternity and the star map to the Eternity Door. Use the power of your Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer talent to operate the Omega Secret-Realm, and you will be able to condense the Eternity Door.”

Hearing this, Lin Xun was stunned. Finally, he revealed a delighted expression, “To think the Eternity Door has been so close all this time!”

Xia Zhi said, “You never asked me about it, so I thought you already knew.”

Lin Xun blushed with shame. In the end, his ignorance was due to the fact that he had never intended to seek out the secrets of the Eternity Door.

Su Wanjun laughed. “Now you won't have to worry about accidentally causing uncontrollable changes to your past and your fate’s trajectory.”

Not going to that river naturally meant not causing any changes in his past karma network. Lin Xun was much more relaxed as stepped into the Boat of Eternity. Shrouded in a vast and thick aura, this artifact was branded with a mysterious star atlas in the center that was the Omega Secret-Realm.

“Alright, let's see what is hiding in the Eternity Door...”

Lin Xun took a deep breath and pressed his right palm onto the star atlas. As he operated the power of the Grand Abyss Heaven Devourer, the atlas glowed and diffused circles of strange ripples.

Boom!

Suddenly, a muffled sound echoed in the void, and a portal appeared as though it had broken through the barrier of space and time to get here. Within it, chaos energy steamed, and light and shadow flickered like billions of stars going in circles.

The Eternity Door!

Lin Xun recognized it right away as this was the door that the Omega Lord had encountered. Not giving him time to think too much, a terrifying aura surged out from the Eternity Door. A magnificent figure emanating ten thousand feet of golden light appeared like a supreme god of war in the legends.

“Die!”

The figure's golden eyes, like a pair of burning lamps, instantly locked on Lin Xun. Without any hesitation at all, he directly swung his golden halberd at the latter.

Rumble!

The halberd shot across the sky, setting off an endless rain of law power light. Lin Xun remained still where he stood. When the golden halberd came down at him, he suddenly extended his right hand and grabbed it. The weapon was instantly clutched in his firm grip!

He poured a force into his palm and fingers. The divine halberd shattered inch by inch, and the golden figure holding it staggered back under the impact.

“A Greater Boundless Eternal!” exclaimed the golden figure.

However, he did not retreat. Another golden halberd condensed in his hand, and when he chopped it out, it whisked up another terrifying, boundless light of calamity. It was the power of the Great Silence Unlife Calamity!

Lin Xun had been attacked by a similar killing calamity in the Fortune Dominion. At the time, it had come from Heavenly Mandate Apostle Yingshan Ying. Now, seeing it was being cast by the golden figure, Lin Xun was even more certain that the Eternity Door had a strong connection to Alpha Origin!

Kaboom!

As the calamity light approached, Lin Xun finally moved. He directly punched out and crushed that Great Silence Unlife Calamity force. The powerful fist aura continued on and bombarded the golden figure until he cracked and his aura chaotically dispersed!

Bang!

The golden figure was sent flying. Upon landing, he didn't even bother to stabilize himself before he fled into the Eternity Door.

“Xia Zhi, stay here with Senior Su. I won't take long.” Lin Xun said as he charged into the Eternity Door.

.....

The realm behind was filled with misty light. A path paved by dao light stretched from the Eternity Door to the unknown depths. The moment Lin Xun entered this world, he sensed a mysterious and unfamiliar law power that worked similarly to a law that upheld the order of a world.

“What’s inside the Eternity Door is actually a world?” Lin Xun pondered as he rushed along the path into the depths.

His spirit sense was able to capture the injured golden figure who was fleeing ahead. He unhurriedly gave chase. About fifteen minutes later, his spirit sense lost the golden figure, as if the other party had vanished all of a sudden.

After thinking about it, Lin Xun continued to go forward. It wasn't long before he saw the exit that resembled a whirlpool spinning slowly. Just one look and he knew that the golden figure had left through it.

Whoosh!

As a flash of light bloomed on Lin Xun, a dao clone materialized and rushed into the vortex. The true form followed closely behind.

After passing through scenery, he found himself in a section of heaven and earth. Before he could get a clear view of it, there suddenly rang the heavy noise of a collision accompanied by the spreading of brilliant dao light. At the same time, Lin Xun realized that his dao clone had been ambushed!

The culprits were a group of nine cultivators, each emitting a radiant and powerful might. The treasures they were maneuvering were permeated with the aura of calamity—the power of the Great Silence Unlife Calamity that could make even Greater Boundless Eternals tremble!

Obviously, Lin Xun would have been the one being surrounded if his true form had rushed straight in alone just now.

Swish!

Lin Xun waved his hand. The besieged dao clone turned into a streak of light and vanished. The group of cultivators were stunned. Realizing that they had been duped, their faces darkened and they immediately charged offensively at him.

Rumble~~

In an instant, sky-blotting calamity power transformed into lightning bolts and rained down on Lin Xun. His opponents were all Immeasurable Eternals. They were far from strong for his level, but being able to borrow the power of the Great Silence Unlife Calamity made them extremely threatening.

Any other cultivator would have retreated in fear, but how could Lin Xun possibly be scared of this? The next thing everyone saw was him reaching out his right hand and drawing a stroke in the air, and the raging calamity power was sliced apart like it was made of cloth. Lin Xun then took a step forward. A terrifying might spread from him.

Thud! Thud! Thud!

The nine cultivators felt their bodies go stiff, and one by one, a pressure pushed them down on their knees and hands. Their entire cultivation bases were also restricted. Fear and horror were plastered all over their faces.

Lin Xun ignored them as his gaze swept around. The sky was dim and dull, the ground was boundless. There was no sun, moon, or stars. There was no grass, trees, mountains, or rivers. There was only emptiness. It was as if this world had a sky and a ground stretching out without limits.

This is the world inside the Eternity Door?

Lin Xun raised his brows. He turned to the group of suppressed cultivators and said, “Since I'm new here, there are many things I don't know. If you could answer my questions...”

It wasn't that he didn't want to search their memories, but that he still remembered what had happened with Yingshan Ying.

After being confined, Yingshan Ying had told him that a Heavenly Mandate Apostle like him, who could borrow the Great Silence Unlife Calamity, had been left a mark of the Alpha Origin Master in them. It would make them drop dead the instant they were soul-searched.

Therefore, Lin Xun could not use this method here. The expressions of the nine cultivators were unsightly. Despite being restrained with their lives hanging on a thin balance, none of them said a word.

Lin Xun frowned. Just as he was about to say something, an amiable and bright laughter came from the distant sky. “Lin Xun, I have been waiting for you for a long time. Whatever you want to know, come directly to me for answers.”

Their voice resonated like a morning bell, transmitting a power that could be felt to one's core. If an ordinary person heard it, their state of mind would be quietly subdued in an instant. They would uncontrollably be in awe and put themselves at the speaker's bidding.

However, for Lin Xun whose mentality had reached the state of ‘mind roaming ten thousand fathoms, mind spanning ten thousand ages,’ the power in this voice had zero effect on him.

Huh?

Suddenly, Lin Xun's pupils shrunk. After that voice dropped, he saw the nine cultivators on the ground turning into ashes and disappearing after the voice sounded!

“Sincs those subordinates of mine was blind to offend you, Little Friend, consider it an apology.”

That clear and gentle voice resounded once again, casual as if executing those nine Greater Boundless existences was no big deal. It was this nonchalant attitude that fully showcased their indifference and ruthlessness.

Lin Xun was silent for a moment before he suddenly laughed. “That was unnecessary. I've come here only to see what secrets the Eternity Door is hiding. If you can't provide me with a satisfactory answer, then I'm afraid you'll have to see how relentless I can be.”

His voice was still echoing when he started moving forward, crossing the boundless distance in a split second and arriving at the location where the voice had come from.The sky and earth here were still dim, but the air, on the other hand, was packed with countless floating flames, the end of which could not be seen at a glance. It gave one the impression that billions of stars dotted this space, quietly burning. The lights they emitted were different in intensity, brightness, and colors.

Not far away, there was a dao platform. There was nothing special about this platform, but because of the figure sitting cross-legged on it, it exuded a kind of indescribable charm. As though it should be standing above the nine heavens or suspended at the peak of eternity, ethereal and faraway.

The figure was clad in a black robe and neatly dressed. Thin, translucent chains of calamity drifted around him, as many of them as the number of grains of sand in a desert, but the man himself remained transcendent, untouched by the calamity power.

Upon seeing this person, Lin Xun's pupils constricted. The Alpha Origin Master!!

Back in the sky of the Mortal Transformation Zone, Lin Xun had seen the dao manifestation left behind by the other party, so how could he not recognize him? However, he had never dreamt that he would see this supreme, legendary existence in the world of the Eternity Door.

Wasn't he imprisoned in a secret space in the Realm of All Mysteries by that swordsman's sword seal many epochs ago?

Meanwhile, the black-robed man on the dao platform had raised his eyes to look at Lin Xun. His voice was gentle, and his clear and bright eyes were smiling as he said, “You need not be nervous, nor do you have to be relentless, my young friend. I was waiting for you, and I'm ready to answer any doubts you might have.”